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Achaemenid Throne-Names

*Nōta legēs quaedam, sed limā rāsa recentī;
 Pars nova māior erit: Lector, utrique favē!*
 (Martialis, *Epigrammata*, X,2,3-4)

1. In a former article about "Thronnamen bei den Achaimeniden" (Schmitt 1977) the present author tried to give a full treatment of all those passages in Greek and Roman literary sources where the custom of changing the name at the accession to the throne is attested for the kings of the Achaemenid dynasty. Since on the one hand that former collection of the evidence on the subject is regrettably incomplete and on the other hand Babylonian texts likewise contain such information without having found due attention from the Iranianists till now, it seems advisable to take up the theme of that Achaemenid institution anew.

2. Direct hints at that custom, widespread elsewhere in the Ancient Near East, of taking another name, a "throne-name" or "royal name" at the accession to the throne, are not found in the inscriptions of the Achaemenid kings proper. Only indirectly it is seen from Darius' great inscription at the rock of Bisutūn, where the rebellious usurpers, whose submission Darius describes in detail, are said to have taken such "royal names". Considering that situation the information from outside of Iran is of special importance. In what follows, the evidence found in Greek and Roman authors (primarily historiographers) is first grouped once again in chronological order:

2.1. Artaxerxes I (465-425/4 B.C.) originally was named Cyrus, hence in Old Persian (OP) *Kuruš*: Flavius Iosephus, *Antiquitates Iudaicae*, XI, 6,1 writes: τελευτήσαντος δὲ Ξέρξου τὴν βασιλείαν εἰς τὸν υἱὸν Κύρον, ὃν Ἀρταξέρξην "Ἕλληνες καλοῦσιν, συνέβη μεταβῆναι "After Xerxes' death it happened that the kingship went over to his son Cyrus, whom the Greeks call Artaxerxes". That not only the Greeks called this king Artaxerxes,